

**Minutes
Of the
Delaware Bicycle Council
August 15, 2001
DeIDOT Administration Building**

Members Present

Don Carbaugh, Chair and New Castle County Representative
Bill Boyd, At-large Representative
Carl Anderson, At-large Representative
Laura Madara, DNREC
Paul Stevenson, NCC Representative
Lisa Moore, Office of Highway Safety
Janet Arns, Department of Education
Fred Breukelman, Dept. of Public Health
Lee Ann Walling, Sussex County Representative
Tom Pleasanton, At-Large Representative

DeIDOT Support Staff Present

Fritz Schranck, Deputy Attorney General
Dennis Scott, Bike/Ped Coordinator
David Petrosky, Project Planner
Wendy Bernard, Secretary

Members Absent

Jay Kelley, DeIDOT Representative
George Heberling, DE State Police
Amy Wilburn, At-Large Representative

Special Guests

Tim Plemmons, Council of Greenways and Trails

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Council Membership

Don C. informed the Council that there are still two council membership vacancies, the Council of Greenways and Trails, which Tim Plemmons has been filling in for in the interim, and the Council on Transportation.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator

Dennis Scott, DeIDOT's new Bike/Ped Coordinator introduced himself to the Council. Dennis comes to us most recently from Missouri, which is known as the "Show me state." Missouri implemented its Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy a few years ago, and recently passed its Statewide Bike Plan. He has many years of experience through being Missouri's bicycle coordinator and having similar positions in Florida, and is an avid cyclist. His first impression of Delaware and DeIDOT is that Delaware is a relatively bicycle friendly state and DeIDOT is working towards goals which are very beneficial to the cycling community.

Don C. asked how DE compares to other states in regards to bicyclists issues. Dennis has the impression that Delaware is very advanced, it may not be the leader, but it's not far behind in trying to implement and support multimodal transportation, including cycling.

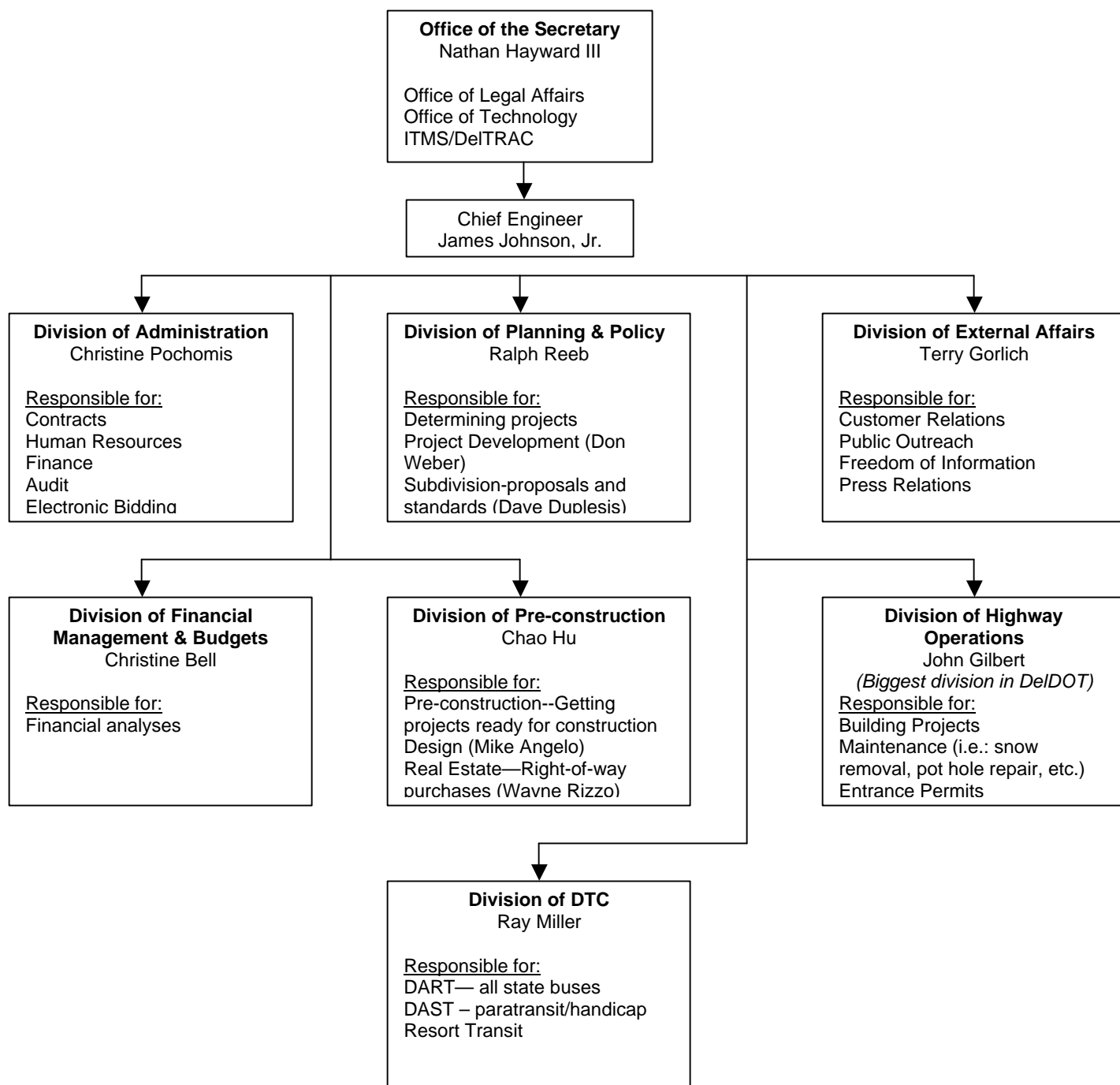
Don C. agreed that DeIDOT has started quite a few projects, but commented on how it takes a while between when a project is initiated and when it's actually implemented.

Don C. also took this opportunity to again thank Dave P. for all of his hard work while the Bike/Ped position was being filled.

II. Presentation

Fritz Schrank gave an overview on the DelDOT organization to help the Council to have a better understanding of the process of business. In overview, DelDOT typically spends \$1.5 million per day designing and operating Delaware's transportation system which includes roughly 10,000 miles of roads, 1,200 bridges, 100's of busses, and 2,400 people--and growing. It typically takes 15 years for a major road project to be completed, which includes the pre-development, design, and real estate acquiring phases through construction.

DelDOT's current Secretary is Nathan Hayward III and he oversees all the operations. The next person on the organizational chart is the Chief Engineer, which is currently Ray Harbeson—who is retiring in the near future. His position will be filled by James Johnson, Jr. The following is the rest of the chart:



DelDOT is the second largest state department with the Division of Health and Social Services being the largest. Fritz has seen a significant change in influence for Bike/Ped. issues lately. For example, many funds have been made available for bike/ped issues, such as the suburban street funds and the community transportation funds. Tim P asked if the Suburban Street funds or the Transportation Enhancements funds could be used to buy bicycles for rental in state parks. Fritz wanted to look into this further and would let the Council know.

Fritz gave his work number, which is 760-2020 if anyone has any questions.

III. Old Business

Newsletter

Don C. suggested there were not enough authors right now for a newsletter, and that the Council should wait a couple of months before they try to get together another issue. Janet A. offered space for an article or two from the DBC in the Healthy Children newsletter that the Department of Education puts out if they didn't have enough material for a whole newsletter.

Website

Don C informed the Council that the DBC website was no longer accessible since the state has switched servers and the link to the DBC site was lost. Maybe a long-term goal for the website would be to have the site managed by DelDOT personnel instead of going to an outside consultant. Fred B. asked if the DBC site had to be linked to the DelDOT website and Don wasn't sure if it was a requirement. Dennis S. said he would look into it.

NCC Bike Map

Dave informed the Council the consultants were compiling information. There were two teams in DelDOT who were working on the BLOS with several trips planned for the upcoming weeks. The first public workshop would be held in September. The map would hopefully be completed sometime next spring.

Liveable Delaware

Lee Ann W. informed the Council that 4 out of 5 proposed bills of Liveable Delaware Program had been passed and the program was receiving national accolades. One of the bills successfully passed established an Advisory Committee, which would have representatives from several state agencies and subcommittees to work on the Governor's agenda.

Network

Carl A. discussed the modest response he has received for the Network and wanted the Council to rethink the degree to which it wanted a network. The original concept from the Strategic Workshop held in February was to have representatives from the bicycle community to attend public meetings and speak on cyclists' issues, and that has not materialized to date. Before he undertook more recruiting efforts he wanted to make sure that there was still interest on the DBC's part and how it intended to use the network. Don said he liked the idea of a network and he knew that there should be some meetings coming up for the Statewide Bike Plan soon that would need representation. Tim P. also knew of some other projects like the New Linden Hill Road project which was just out of the design phase and should be having meetings soon also. He agreed that there wasn't much notice for public meetings. Wendy B. offered to talk to DelDOT's External Affairs department to see if the Bike Coordinator could be informed of all public notices going out. He could then in turn let Carl and the DBC know of them and then be able to send someone from the network.

Budget

Dave reviewed the budget which was handed out at the previous DBC meeting.

Rail to Trail Study

Dennis went over the status of the study and had handouts for everyone which outlined it. He anticipated the draft of the study to be complete in 90 days.

New Castle Rail to Trail

Tim updated the Council on this project. There had been a walking tour of the 4.5-mile industrial line from the Christiana River to the City of New Castle with DNREC and DelDOT. Delaware Greenways and Trails was having a meeting with the local people to discuss the project and was hoping for government support of the project in terms of maintenance, liability, and some funding since the trail would be useful to the area schools, the general population, and has such good destinations.

IV. Task Updates

Effective Cycling Update

Paul let the Council know there were classes scheduled for September 5, 12, and 19 at the Wilmington Chestnut Facility for \$25 each. So far there were 6 people on the agenda to teach proper traffic techniques and the class was beneficial to even experienced cyclists.

Don spoke of a 3-hour credit program to be given to teachers for the Delaware Teachers Association. There will be two more classes offered in Georgetown and New Castle County. Paul suggested that drivers-education teachers should also take the class. Janet suggested that by October the course might be able to become an in-service course and suggested a write up of a course description be done. Paul and Don would get together to do that. It was also brought up that bus drivers would also benefit from this course. Paul said the New Castle County instructors had gone to Sussex for train-the-trainer courses, so it shouldn't be hard to get them to do the training. Janet then said there was a CDC grant for physical activity and maybe physical education teachers could be trained too.

Park Pedalers

Laura M. is looking into prices and sizes of bikes from Dunbar. She is looking to get 10 for now, with having 20 eventually, but is wondering what the ratio of children to adult bikes she should get. Storage is not going to be an issue at Bellevue, but will have to work on the funding. Someone suggested she contact Dave Ennis ?????

Bike Transportation Guide

The guide is on the verge of printing; just few logistical issues need to be worked out. They expect to have them printed and available for the Transportation Festival, which is on September 29th.

Trinkets

Dave and Dennis have ordered reflective bands and triangle zipper dangles and should also be available for the Transportation Festival.

V. New Business

Study Advisory Community

Dennis told the Council the consultants were on board for the Statewide Bike Plan. He would also like a representative from the DBC to be part of the Study Advisory Committee, who's first meeting was scheduled for Sept. 19 at the Division of Libraries. Carl, Don, and Tim P. offered and will be on the Committee.

Tim expected the Bike Plan to have an impact on the CIP budget and will be a useful tool in deciding how to spend the funds.

News Items

Marketing Campaign: The University of Delaware has an ad campaign out for mini grants of \$5,000-\$10,000 for RFP's for community organizations.

Bike Helmet Bank: Lisa Moore handed out information regarding the Delaware Helmet Bank which is run by the Community Traffic Safety Program Coordinators (CTSP) for each county and supplies helmets and information to local communities. There is currently money in the bank and if any one knows of a low-income community in need of bicycle helmets, please let the CTSP know by contacting your county representative.

Cycling in Texas: Lee Ann told the Council of a recent trip she took to Texas. They had bike racks on the transportation buses and wondered if the Council thought that was a good idea. It should have an inexpensive installation cost, park and ride lockers would need to be installed as well. She

hasn't had an outcry for them in NCC, but thought they would be beneficial and asked the Council their thoughts.

Meeting with Secretary Hayward III: Don let the Council know he had a meeting scheduled with Secretary Hayward about the role of the DBC and would take suggestions for any topics from the Council. It was mentioned that it would be nice to have the Secretary come to a few Council meetings.

HR 1265: Don indicated that he had written U.S. Representative Mike Castle asking him to sign on as a co-sponsor of HB 1265. This is legislation that would add bicycling as one of the work trip modes for which employees can receive a tax-exempt benefit.

Dennis asked if there was a Walk Your Child to School event in DE. He also asked for volunteers for the Amish bike ride.

Tim mentioned correspondence from the League American Bicyclists about FHWA encouraging rumble strips on paved shoulders of rural roads and that's something cyclists don't like. He also asked about funding for the State Scenic Highway Program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**The Next DBC Meeting will be on October 3rd from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
At the DeIDOT Admin. Building in the
Dover Conference Room**